



WHAT IS NORTHERN CORPS?

No, it's not some elitist military outfit. Northern Corps is a group of highly qualified, dedicated teachers with an urge to develop Northern Ontario's most important natural resource—its children.

You'll find Corps members in tiny schoolhouses in remote villages with names like Shining Tree, Gogama, and Missanabie.

The Corps was established in 1966 by the Ontario Ministry of Education to provide communities in the North with qualified teachers.

In its first year, thirteen teachers enlisted in the Corps. That number has more than tripled, and this pamphlet will tell you why.

THE CHALLENGES

They're tough, yet exciting. In addition to your role as teacher, you'll become a leader of the community, expected to chair a town meeting, organize a village celebration, perhaps save the life of a child or adult with a dash to a hospital many miles away.

And you'll have to be resourceful with a high ability to improvise because you may be called upon for all kinds of repair jobs.

Ideally, you should forget any preconceived notions you may have about the North and its people. Go in, see the situation for yourself, and then adapt to it.



OPPORTUNITIES

They're many, but perhaps the most important is the chance to open the minds of children to the world of ideas and learning and the chance to grow yourself as a teacher and as a person through enriching human relationships.

You'll be working in country that is sometimes harsh yet always beautiful, ideal for fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, skidooring, or just nature appreciation.

SCHOOLS

Don't look for anything luxurious. The schools are small. Pupil enrolment ranges from 10 to just over 100 and grades run from 1 to 8.

Most of the schools are supplied with electricity and an oil or coal burner. All have modern teaching aids and you'll have professional as well as material back-up services from regional offices in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and North Bay.

All schools are connected to regional offices by two-way short-wave radio or a telephone system known as the Watts Line.

THE COMMUNITIES

They are small towns or villages scattered throughout Northern Ontario. Some are accessible by car, bus, or train, others only by boat or aircraft.

Medical services are limited, although Ministry of Health nurses visit regularly. In some communities, the nearest doctor or hospital may be a hundred miles away. The population is composed of Cree or Ojibway Indians and whites, either French or English, who earn their living by mining, hunting, tourism, or government services.



TEACHER ACCOMMODATION

It may be a house or an apartment or an area of the school building. In some cases, living quarters and classroom are located in a trailer.

Newer houses and apartments have electricity, running water, and modern appliances. But if the living quarters are separate from the school building, there may be no electricity and 'plumbing' may be outdoors.

In communities where two teachers are needed, two men or two women or a husband-and-wife team will be selected.



INTERESTED IN NORTHERN CORPS? ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

- Am I adaptable enough?
- Am I resourceful enough?
- Can I take the isolation from friends and teaching colleagues?
- Can I keep cool in an emergency? What would I do, for example, if my diesel-electric generator broke down?
- Can I entertain myself and enjoy my own cooking?
- Do I have a knowledge of first-aid?
- How would I teach an adolescent attending school for the first time or a child who speaks no English or French?
- How do I see my role as a teacher and community leader?

Successful candidates must attend a week-long orientation course during August and other programs established by the Ministry of Education.

And to encourage esprit de corps, you'll receive a full-length, furhooded winter coat with Northern Corps flashes.

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